

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 096697
ORIGIN SS-25

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-----290032Z 038968 /63
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 096697

EXDIS - FOR DELIVERY TO CHARGE AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGES OF U.S. INTERFERENCE IN
PAKISTAN POLITICS

1. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN
APRIL 28 EXPRESSING THE USG'S DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE STATE-
MENTS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE PARLIAMENT. HE
NOTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD CHARGED THE USG WITH
SUPPORTING THE OPPOSITION AND BY IMPLICATION ATTEMPTING TO
OUST HIM FROM OFFICE.

2. HABIB STATED THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER TO
THESE CHARGES, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALREADY BEEN TOLD
THIS. THE UNITED STATES SOUGHT A CLOSE AND AMICABLE RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN BUT WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE
HOW SUCH A RELATIONSHIP COULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE FACE OF
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SUCH CHARGES AS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER. HABIB
NOTED THAT USGS PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC ASSIS-
TANCE AND ARMS SUPPLY HAD BEEN CONTINUING. WE WERE PREPARED
TO DISCUSS ANY DIFFERENCES QUIETLY AND REASONABLY. HABIB
REPEATED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER PRIME MINISTERS CHARGES
AND OUR CATEGORICAL DENIAL.

3. THE USG WILL PUBLICLY CATEGORICALLY DENY THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGES SINCE THEY ARE FALSE. WE WILL ALSO NOTE TO THE PRESS OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. IN CLOSING, HABIB ASKED THAT THE AMBASSADOR FORWARD THE USG'S DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THIS MATTER TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR MADE NO REPLY AND STATED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH. HE AGREED TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF USG'S VIEWS.

5. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE AN APPROACH ALONG THE ABOVE LINES TO AZIZ AHMED.

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Message Attributes

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